

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4 December 2017 at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr D Hollands, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fooks, Borough Councillor Derek Butler and 3 members of the public/press.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr W Hinder (convalescing), Cllrs Clarke and Constable (unwell) and Hayday (family bereavement). County Cllr Paul Carter (previous engagement).

The Chairman asked for a new item, Chairman's Announcement to be added to the agenda between current items 2 & 3. **Action: Office.**

The Chairman also requested a members' signing in system be operated starting from January 2018 which was agreed by those members present. **Action: Office.**

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Minute 3041/1 Parish Councillor vacancy. The Clerk's report was **received and noted** with the timetable for the possible appointment by co-option on 22 January 2017 being **noted. Action: Clerk.**

4.2 Minute 3041/4.1 Honour Boards. Work will be completed as soon as the opportunity arises. **Noted.**

4.3 Minute 3041/4.2 HGV signage, Sandling. The sign has been installed. **Noted.**

4.4 Minute 3041/4.4. Local Nature Reserve Grove Green. A response is still awaited from MBC. **Noted.**

4.5 Minute 3041/5. Letter to Kent Police Crime Commissioner re PCSO service. Cllr Bob Hinder received a call from Inspector Hedges stating that 6 new PCSOs had been recruited and it was expected that the previous service of PCSOs attending meetings and being in more contact with the parish office will return in the New Year.

4.6 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda. **None**

5. Crime Report and Police Issues

Crime statistics. **Received and noted.** Members **noted** that Councillor Bob Hinder volunteered to undertake the Police survey.

The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to notify members that the Sandling obsolete telephone box in Sandling had been removed.

6. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 6 November 2017. **Received and noted.**

6.2 Environment Committee meeting 13 November 2017. **Received and noted.**

6.3 F&GP Committee meeting 14 November 2017. **Received and noted.**

7. Finance

7.1 Payments made out of meeting 27.10.17-27.11.17. **Received and noted.**

7.2 Receipts for the period 27.10.17-27.11.17. **Received and noted.**

7.3 Account balances. **Received and noted.**

7.4 Members are reminded that they should not sign blank cheques or authorisation letters, they need to check invoices against cheques and authorisations, cheque stubs need to be initialed by both signatures and they also need to keep their register of interest updated **Noted.**

8. Policies and Procedures

None to review.

9. Reports from councillors/office

Members/staff who have attended any meeting on behalf of the parish council are invited to give a summary.

9.1 Parish Tour. Members who attended gave positive reviews of the day but suggested that it would be helpful in future to have a route map issued to councillors. Members **agreed** that a letter of thanks should be sent to the company as the driver was particularly good. **Action: Office.**

9.2 The Chairman gave a verbal report to members regarding his meeting with Helen Whately MP concerning the traffic issues in the North of the parish. The parish council had produced a briefing report for the MP who would be liaising with three fellow MPs Tracey Crouch, Helen Grant and Tom Tugendhat concerning the shared problems.

The Chairman informed members that the latest information from KCC was that improvements, due to funding issues, were on the back burner. Helen Whately would now be taking up the issue with the Minister responsible for highways.

9.3 The Chairman notified members that he had attended the Maidstone KALC meeting which received a presentation from Nu Venture highlighting the problems of traffic congestion and the effects on timetables. **Noted.**

10 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Borough Councillor Derek Butler gave a report covering his attendance at an exhibition on the new Smart Motorway between junctions 3-5, where there will be 4 lanes with average speed cameras in operation which would start in the New Year. He reported the opening of a new gallery aimed at children at the Maidstone museum. Rochester Bridge Trust currently has a display on at Rochester Cathedral.

A report from Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder was given which gave an update on the recent work by UKPower and KCC on Boxley Road. Further work was still needed.

11 Franklin Drive play area.

The report from Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder was **received and noted.** Members' discussed her request, subject to external funding for a full refurbishment of the play area being obtained, that the parish council consider taking on ownership or a long-term lease of Franklin Drive Play Area. Cllr Ivor Davies proposed seconded by Cllr Dengate **the parish council agrees in principle, subject to suitable funding becoming available, to take on responsibility of Franklin Drive Play Area. Unanimously agreed. Action Cllr Wendy Hinder and Clerk.**

12 Matters for Decision

Item 12.1 was taken at the end of the meeting.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the next item the Chairman decided to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

12.1 KALC Community Award. Members **approved** the nomination. **Action: Chairman and office.**

12.2 KALC Police Liaison Meeting 17 January 2018. **Action: Chairman to attend. Office.**

13 Budget

13.1 Draft Budget 2018/2019. Members are reminded to submit any suggestions or projects to the parish office/committees. **Noted.**

13.2 End of World War 1 commemorative plaque. Discussion took place on the suitable wording of a plaque. Cllr Hollands proposed seconded by Cllr Macklin that **budget provision is made for a plaque to be erected at the site. Unanimously agreed.** To enable members to consider suitable poems and words the item was deferred to next meeting. **Action: All councillors.**

13.3 Franklin Drive play area. Cllr Vic Davies proposed seconded by Cllr Ivor Davies that provision **is made in the budget for the maintenance and running of Franklin Drive Play Area. Unanimously agreed. Action: Clerk.**

14 **Correspondence**

KWES Lottery Funding Woodland Web. **Noted**

15 **Matters for Information**

15.1 Educational support for a resident doing a dissertation on Walderslade Woods. **Noted.**

15.2 Medway Education Business Partnership. Parish Council signed up to receive two students in 2018. **Noted.**

15.3 Old Chalk New Downs Update. **Noted.**

15.4 BT telephone box Sandling. Has now been removed by BT.

15.5 Kent Wildlife Trust Wild Kent issue Winter 2017/18. **Noted**

15.6 Countryside Voice CPRE. **Noted.**

15.7 Speeding and traffic issues Boxley Road/Walderslade Village. A letter had been sent to the Leader of Medway Council Cllr Jarrett to see if anything could be done. **Noted.**

16 **Next Meeting**

22 January 2017 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Chatham ME5 9RU commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman..... Date.....

